
Contents

1 Background and Motivation for Thin-Film Solar-Cell Development

Yoshihiro Hamakawa	1
1.1 Development of Modern Civilization via Energy Revolutions	2
1.2 3E-Trilemma and New Energy Strategy	2
1.3 Key Issues for PV Technology Developments	7
1.4 Future Prospect and Roadmap for Solar Photovoltaics	11
References	14

2 Recent Advances and Future Opportunities for Thin-Film Solar Cell

Satyen K. Deb	15
2.1 Introduction	15
2.2 First-Generation Thin-Film Solar Cells	16
2.3 Amorphous Silicon Alloy Solar Cells	17
2.3.1 Multijunction Cells	18
2.3.2 Single- and Double-Junction Cells	19
2.3.3 Material and Device Issues	20
2.3.4 Growth of a-Si:H Alloy	20
2.3.5 Photodegradation of a-Si Solar Cells	21
2.3.6 Technology Development	23
2.3.7 Research Issues in a-Si:H-Based Materials and Devices ...	24
2.4 CdTe-Based Thin-Film Solar Cells	24
2.4.1 Device Fabrication Process	24
2.4.2 Cell and Module Efficiency	26
2.4.3 Technology Development	26
2.4.4 Key Issues for Future R&D	28

2.5	CuInSe ₂ (CIS)-Based Thin-Film Solar Cells	28
2.5.1	Device Fabrication	28
2.5.2	Technology Development	30
2.5.3	Key Research Issues	31
2.6	Next Generation of Thin-Film Solar Cells	31
2.6.1	Thin-Film Silicon Solar Cells	31
2.6.2	Microcrystalline-Silicon Thin Film ($\mu\text{c-Si}$)	33
2.6.3	Thin-Film GaAs Solar Cells	33
2.6.4	Dye-Sensitized TiO ₂ Thin-Film Solar Cells	34
2.6.5	Novel Ternary and Multinary Compounds	35
2.6.6	Organic Solar Cells	37
2.6.7	Novel Approaches to High-Efficiency Thin-Film Solar Cells	38
	References	39

3 Electrical and Optical Properties of Amorphous Silicon and Its Alloys

	Hiroaki Okamoto	43
3.1	Simplistic Model for Band-Edge Electronic Properties	43
3.1.1	Fundamental Aspects Near the Mobility Edge	43
3.1.2	Optical Absorption Spectrum	46
3.1.3	Electronic Conduction	52
3.2	Mobility and Band-Edge Parameters in Amorphous Silicon Alloys	57
3.2.1	Evaluation Procedure	57
3.2.2	Carrier Mobility in Amorphous Silicon Alloys	58
3.3	Photoinduced Structural Change	63
3.3.1	Photoinduced Changes in Electronic Properties	63
3.3.2	Photoinduced Structural Change and Its Physical Implications	63
3.4	Concluding Remarks	67
	References	67

4 Preparation and Properties of Nanocrystalline Silicon

	Michio Kondo and Akihisa Matsuda	69
4.1	History of Nanocrystalline Silicon	69
4.2	Preparation of Nanocrystalline Silicon	70
4.3	Understanding Nanocrystalline Silicon Growth	72
4.4	High-Rate Growth of Nanocrystalline Silicon	77
4.5	Structural Properties of Nanocrystalline Silicon	79
4.6	Optical and Electrical Properties of Nanocrystalline Silicon	82
	References	87

5 Key Issues for the Efficiency Improvement of Silicon-Based Stacked Solar Cells

Yoshihiro Hamakawa	90
5.1 Principle of the Stacked Solar Cell	91
5.2 An Optimum Design of the a-Si Top Cell	96
5.3 Poly-Si and $\mu\text{c-Si}$ Bottom-Cell Technology	98
References	103

6 Development of Amorphous-Silicon Single-Junction Solar Cells and Their Application Systems

Katsuhiko Nomoto and Takashi Tomita	105
6.1 Introduction	105
6.2 Key Technologies and Approaches Towards Large-Scale, High-Efficiency, a-Si:H Single-Junction Solar Cells	106
6.2.1 Basic Cell Structure and Process	106
6.2.2 Key Manufacturing Technology and Device Design	107
6.2.3 Module Performance of a-Si:H Single-Junction Solar Cells	110
6.3 Applications of Large-Scale a-Si:H Solar Modules and Systems ..	114
6.3.1 Application to the Construction Material, ALC Panel Integrating a-Si:H PV Modules	115
6.3.2 See-Through-Type a-Si:H Solar Modules	116
6.4 Conclusion	119
References	120

7 The Production of a-Si:H/a-SiGe:H/a-SiGe:H Stacked Solar-Cell Modules and Their Applications

Keishi Saito, Tomonori Nishimoto, Ryo Hayashi, Kimitoshi Fukae, and Kiyosuke Ogawa	121
7.1 R&D Work with Small-Area Cells	121
7.2 Low-Pressure Microwave PCVD Method	122
7.3 Graded-Bandgap Profiling in a-SiGe:H	125
7.4 Suppression of Light-Induced Degradation and Improved Performance	126
7.5 Mass Production of a-Si:H/a-SiGe:H/a-SiGe:H Stacked Solar Cells and the Product Outlines	129
7.6 The Roll-to-Roll CVD Method	132
7.7 Characteristics of Slab Cells and Modules	134
7.8 Light-Soaking Testing	136
7.9 Summary	137
References	137

8 Low-Temperature Fabrication of Nanocrystalline-Silicon Solar Cells

Michio Kondo and Akihisa Matsuda 139

8.1 Why Nanocrystalline-Silicon Solar Cells? 139

8.2 Low-Temperature Process for Nanocrystalline-Silicon Solar Cells . . 141

8.3 Substrate Technology 145

8.4 Future Prospect of Nanocrystalline-Silicon Solar Cells 147

References 148

9 Mass Production of Large-Area Integrated Thin-Film Silicon Solar-Cell Module

Yoshihisa Tawada, H. Yamagishi, and K. Yamamoto 150

9.1 Introduction 151

9.2 Performance and Production of a-Si Modules 151

9.3 Performances and Production of a-Si/Thin-Film c-Si Hybrid Solar Module 155

9.4 Future Business Plan 161

References 162

10 Properties of Chalcopyrite-Based Materials and Film Deposition for Thin-Film Solar Cells

Hans-Werner Schock 163

10.1 Cu-Chalcopyrite Compounds 163

10.1.1 Material Properties 164

10.1.2 Phase Diagram 164

10.1.3 Defects and Impurities 167

10.2 Alloys 171

10.2.1 Growth Methods for Thin Films 171

10.2.2 Vacuum Evaporation Methods 173

10.2.3 Reactive Film Formation 175

10.2.4 Annealing of Stacked Elemental Layers 176

10.2.5 Epitaxy, Chemical Vapor Deposition, and Vapor Transport Processes 177

10.2.6 Other Techniques 177

References 178

11 Development of Cu(InGa)Se₂ Thin-Film Solar Cells

Makoto Konagai and Katsumi Kushiya 183

11.1 High-Efficiency Techniques 183

11.1.1 Efficiencies of Small-Area CIGS Thin-Film Solar Cells 183

11.1.2 In-situ Monitoring of Composition Ratio 186

11.1.3 Buffer Layers 188

11.1.4 Conduction Band Offset 194

11.1.5 Flexible Substrates 195

11.2 Fabrication Technologies of Large-Area CIGS-based Modules 197
 11.2.1 Introduction 197
 11.2.2 Fabrication Technologies 202
 11.2.3 Durability 206
 References 208

12 Expanding Thin-Film Solar PV System Applications

Hirosato Yagi, Makoto Tanaka, and Shoichi Nakano 211
 12.1 Introduction 211
 12.2 Comparison Between Crystalline Solar Cells
 and Thin-Film Solar Cells with Respect to Applications 212
 12.3 Applications to Electrical Devices 213
 12.4 Applications to Standalone Systems 215
 12.5 See-Through a-Si Solar Cells 216
 12.6 Flexible a-Si Solar Cells 218
 12.7 Applications for Residential Housing
 (Building Integrated PV Modules) 219
 12.7.1 Present Market for PV Housing 219
 12.7.2 Development BIPV Modules 220
 12.7.3 Industrialization of BIPV Modules 222
 12.8 Application to Semi-Large-Scale Photovoltaic Systems 223
 12.9 Future Prospects 227
 12.9.1 Applications of Flexible and Lightweight Modules 227
 12.9.2 Applications of BIPV Modules 227
 12.9.3 Applications of Power-Generating Use –
 GENESIS Project 229
 References 230

13 Future Prospects for Photovoltaic Technologies in Japan

Nobuaki Mori and Toshihisa Masuda 231
 13.1 Current Status of Photovoltaic Industrialization 231
 13.2 Recent Achievements of the PV R&D
 in the New Sunshine Project 235
 13.3 New Strategy and Future Prospects for PV Industry in Japan 237
 References 240

Index 241